ANNUAL ADDRESS DELIVERED BEFORE THE CINCINNATI ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY, JUNE 3, 1844

Gc
977.102
C49AN

102

M! L.

[redacted]

AMERICANA COLLECTION

GEN

ALLEN COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY
3 1833 02554 7776

Gc 977.102 C49an
Cincinnati Astronomical
Society.
The annual address delivered
before the Cincinnati ...

√

JAN 21 1954

Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2016

https://archive.org/details/annualaddressdel00cinc

THE ANNUAL ADDRESS,

DELIVERED BEFORE THE

CINCINNATI ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY,

JUNE 3, 1844,

BY THE HON. JACOB BURNET,

TOGETHER WITH

THE ACT OF INCORPORATION, THE CONSTITUTION OF THE SOCIETY,
THE ANNUAL REPORTS, THE OFFICERS,

AND

A CATALOGUE OF THE STOCKHOLDERS.

BLACK GOLD

Cincinnati:
PRINTED AT THE DAILY ATLAS OFFICE.
1844.

THE ANNUAL ADDRESS,

DELIVERED BEFORE THE

CINCINNATI ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY,

JUNE 3, 1844,

BY THE HON. JACOB BURNET,

TOGETHER WITH

THE ACT OF INCORPORATION, THE CONSTITUTION OF THE SOCIETY,
THE ANNUAL REPORTS, THE OFFICERS,

AND

A CATALOGUE OF THE STOCKHOLDERS.

Cincinnati:
PRINTED AT THE DAILY ATLAS OFFICE.
1844.

Allen County Public Library
900 Webster Street
PO Box 2270
Fort Wayne, IN 46801-2270

At a meeting of the Board of Control, held June 8, 1844, it was unanimously,

Resolved, That Judge Burnet be requested to furnish, for publication, a copy of the Anniversary Address, delivered by him, before the Cincinnati Astronomical Society.

ADDRESS.

midland #10.00

FELLOW CITIZENS:

Gentlemen of the Astronomical Society—

Since your last annual meeting, a charter of incorporation has been obtained, embracing the essential provisions of the plan, which you directed the Board of Control to submit to the General Assembly. In addition to the advantages, common to corporate bodies, our charter prohibits the Board of Control from involving the Society in debt, and protects the Observatory, Telescope, and other instruments, from execution, and from taxes of every description.

825752

In addressing you on this occasion, it is my purpose to present a contrast between the rapidity and extent of improvement, in the western country, and in the Atlantic states; having regard to the periods, at which *their* and *our* settlements, respectively, began. This will lead to a very concise and rapid view of the situation and character of the North-western territory, and of the character and condition of the people by whom it was owned and occupied, when the American Congress, under the old Confederation, established civil government within it, by the Ordinance of 1787. It will, also, lead us to trace the progress of improvement in the territory, from that period; and to notice the advance of similar improvements in the Atlantic States, from the commencement of their settlements. Such a review will vindicate the claims of Ohio, and of the West generally, to the credit and character to which they are entitled; but which has been, hitherto, either unnoticed, or unknown.

As a foundation for this claim of the west, I appeal to such facts, as these—that only fifty-five years have passed, since the first log cabin was raised on the site of this beautiful city, laid out, as a town, in the fall of 1789—that not more than forty-two years have elapsed, since the first brick house was built within its limits, or elsewhere, on this side of the Ohio river—that some five or six years, after the settlement of the territory had commenced, the entire white population within its limits, extending from Pennsylvania to the Mississippi, and stretching from the Ohio to the Lakes, by the estimate of Governor St. Clair, and Judge Turner, amounted only to fifteen thousand souls, including men, women, and children—that this little band, located in different, and remote settlements, constituted the entire force, with which the improvement of this extensive valley, was begun—that the territory was not only, itself, wild and uncultivated, but was separated from the Atlantic inhabitants, by a broad belt of rugged mountains, and mountainous country, almost equally wild and uncultivated, containing, scarcely, the semblance of a road, bridge, ferry, or other improvement, to encourage the movement of emigrants, or facilitate intercourse between the West and the Atlantic States—that when the settlements in the territory were commenced, the adjoining regions, on every side, were uncultivated and without commerce, or the means of creating it—that the primitive mode of transportation across the mountains, by pack-horses, had been but recently exchanged, for the greater convenience of the Pennsylvania wagon, which slowly wended its way through the mountains, by temporary paths, not entitled to the name of roads. That the country contained neither protection, nor shelter, for civilized man, till after the promulgation of the Ordinance before referred to, which our young Buckeye friend, Jordan A. Pugh, at the late celebration of the settlement of Ohio, described with a beauty and eloquence, which riveted attention; and gave proof, that he had not studied the history of his native State in vain, and which emanated from the head and heart of Nathan Dane, a revolutionary patriot of Massachusetts, to whom the entire West owe a debt of gratitude, never to be repudiated. It may be stated, further, that after the enumeration before referred to, a regular census was taken, by public authority, in 1801, in consequence of an application to Congress, by the inhabitants of the eastern division of the territory, for permission to form a State government. By that enumeration, it appeared, that the district contained forty-five thousand, and twenty-eight persons of both sexes, being the entire population, which our settlements had acquired, during the first fourteen years after their commencement.

With a knowledge of these facts, can any reflecting person look at the objects, which now surround him, in every direction, without feeling disposed to inquire, if they may not be the result of some magical agency, invisible to the human eye. When you examine the present condition of the State of Ohio, containing seventeen or eighteen hundred thousand souls, it seems to be impossible, that within the memory of persons, now living, it was one unbroken wilderness, occupied, exclusively, by the native Indian—the game on which he subsisted, and beasts of prey. Yet the fact is so. There are persons, now among us, who crossed the Ohio river, and planted themselves on its western bank, for permanent residence, when that state of things literally existed, and when not a footprint of civilized man had been impressed on the soil. If you ask who they are, I will refer you to Col. John Riddle, Judge Luke Foster, Capt. Jacob White, Griffin Yeatman, Major Ferguson of this county, and John Reily of Butler. A parallel case cannot be found. The world has never before seen an uncultivated wilderness, of such extent, acquire a population of more than five millions of people; and become filled with the comforts and elegancies of civilized life, in a period scarcely exceeding half a century.

After these general remarks, I invite those of you, who were in this country, at its first settlement, to go back in memory, and re-examine its appearance and condition at that period, and also the character and habits of the people, by whom it was owned and occupied. You will then, be prepared to report; that the country was one of the most delightful on the face of the earth; exhibiting a fertility of soil—a grandeur of forest, and a beauty and richness of prairie, never excelled; and that as far as original, creating power was concerned, everything had been done, which the imagination of man could anticipate, or desire. When the early adventurer penetrated the forest, his feet sunk in the loose rich soil, on which he trod; and as he traversed the extensive prairie, which nature, in the imaginary person of *Flora*, had beautified with her richest gifts, painted with every variety and mixture of the colors of the rainbow, his feelings could not be adequately expressed. The further he advanced into the interior of the great Valley, and the more he saw of the rivers, which intersected it in all directions; and of the endless variety of its luxurious vegetable, and rich mineral productions, the more readily did he yield to that frailty of human nature, which prompts us to covet and invade the rights of our neighbor. This beautiful region, however, was in the state, in which nature had made it. The hand of civilized man, had not then been employed, to change its appearance, or mar its native beauty. No edifices were seen reared for the advancement of science and the arts. No improvement to facilitate traveling, transportation, or commerce. Agriculture, as a profession, was unknown; nor did the eye rest on any structure reared by man, to honor his maker, or to alleviate the wants of his fellow-man. Such was the condition of the country.

The native inhabitants, by whom it was occupied, were untaught and unpolished; but brave and generous. The art of war had been their study. The chase constituted their business and amusement, and furnished the food, on which they subsisted. The warriors were too proud to labor, and imposed that, and every other drudgery, on the women, as is the custom of all nations, in which christianity is not taught and practised. They claimed the entire country; alleging that it had been made by the Great Spirit, for them and their children, for ever.

Being unconscious of danger, they met and greeted the pioneers, as friends, when they first crossed the river, and entered their territory; and they continued to treat them as such, till they began to apprehend hostile designs, against themselves and their country; suspicions of which were instilled into their minds by British traders very soon after our settlements began. These children of the forest, had some vague notions of a deity, to whom they were responsible. They had a confused, undefined belief in a future state of existence. They had a general impression, that the Great Spirit would send them, after death, to some pleasant region, such as the Elysian fields of ancient Greece and Rome; abounding with game, and fish, and fruit. That they would carry their rifles and their dogs, and enjoy the same gratifications, they had been accustomed to here, but in a higher degree of perfection. With such crude notions as these, they passed through life, ignorant of the duties they owed to their Maker, and to their fellow-men.

They have been charged by their enemies, with treachery; but a candid examination of their character, before they learned the vices of white men, will show this charge to be untrue, in the sense in which it is made. It is admitted, that it was their practice to use deception against their enemies, and that the study of that art, constituted a part of their military education. They always thought it honorable to deceive and injure those, with whom they were at war, by any means in their power, however dishonorable in the estimation of civilized nations; but in time of peace, the case was otherwise. Then, the white man might traverse their country—visit their hunting camps, and their villages, without danger of molestation, as they made it a point of honor, to protect the persons and the property of those, who confided in them. These remarks apply, to the time when they were in name, and in fact, independent nations, and undisputed owners of the country they occupied. Then they were brave, generous, and kind to their friends—equally prompt to avenge insults and reciprocate favors.

They have, also, been branded with cowardice, a charge which has arisen from the fact, that they were taught from infancy, to avoid an exposure of life, in cases, where the loss of it, would not be compensated for, by the object to be gained. But this is not an evidence of want of courage. It is commendable prudence, dictated by wisdom; and was the result of education. So far from being cowards, no other people has furnished more cases of imminent exposure and self-devotedness.

Another allegation prejudicial to the character of the red men of our continent is, that mentally, they are inferior to *the Anglo-Saxon race;* from which an inference has been drawn, that they are not qualified to live in dense communities, where they must rely for sustenance, on agriculture and the mechanic arts; and that it was, therefore, right to expel them from their country, that it might be properly improved. In repelling this assertion, my first remark is, that it is wholly gratuitous. There is not one authenticated fact to sustain it. On the contrary, whenever the two races have been placed in the same circumstances, operated on by the same causes, and have had the same privilege of choice, their course has been invariably the same. The white child, captured in infancy, and brought up among the Indians, becomes, when an adult, a perfect Indian, disclaiming his kindred, and refusing to leave the forest—and *vice versa.* The Indian educated among the whites from infancy, is not found to differ in any respect, from the child of European parents, educated in the same way. Human nature is the same, substantially, in all countries. Everywhere, the first propensity of man, is to ramble. He naturally resists restraint, and delights in the chase, rather than in agriculture. Whenever the inhabitants of an uncivilized, uncultivated country multiply, till the forest and the rivers can no longer, supply them with food, and the possibility of emigrating is cut off, by which they are driven to the alternative, either to till the ground, or to starve; then, and then only, will they submit to the drudgery of husbandmen. Necessity, and that alone, has induced men, in every age, to give up the chase, and devote themselves to the tilling of the ground. The advance of civilization, in all time, has been from the chase to the wandering, pastoral state, and from that to the fixed, permanent condition, which agriculture and the arts require; and it is true, that these changes have been produced, invariably, by the operation of causes, which could not be controlled. The time has been, when the inhabitants of every part of Europe, including those which are now the most highly cultivated, depended for their sustenance, on the forest, the river, and the lake. It may be safely affirmed that since the time of creation, the people of no country, have given up the chase for agriculture; while they possessed a range, as extensive, as fertile, and as full of game, as that which our Indians enjoyed. The fact is, that as long as they retained their native independence, and trod on a soil proudly called their own, they exhibited as much strength of mind, energy of character, and resource in cases of emergency, as the most cultivated white men, in similar circumstances. It would be unjust to form an opinion of the original inhabitants of this country, by a reference to their descendants of the present day. In the short period of half a century, they have been so changed, that scarcely a trace or feature remains, of what they were, when their country was first entered by the pioneers of our race—an event, which sealed their destiny.

It would be interesting to review the decline and fall of those brave and powerful tribes; but a want of time forbids it. I can only say, that their declension commenced immediately after the treaty of Greenville. From that period, their intercourse with us became constant, and intimate; and almost necessarily fatal, as their first associations were with the army and its followers, a most unfortunate school for innocence and inexperience. Very soon, they contracted our most destructive vices. Intemperance, and idleness, its constant companion, became general, and rapidly contaminated every tribe in the territory. As a natural consequence, the hunting excursion ceased to be pleasureable—the cultivation of their small crops of corn and beans, was too great a drudgery to be endured. The means of subsistence became scarce and precarious. They suffered for food—they endured great personal exposure—their constitutional energy was impaired—their health declined, and but few of their children lived to maturity. Conscious of their degradation, they lost their self-respect, and with it the dignity of character, and the heroic spirit, they had inherited from their fathers. In their own estimation, they became a degraded race, neither able, nor disposed to resist encroachments on their individual, or national rights. The sequel does not require to be repeated. Let me say, however, that it has been my lot to witness the commencement and entire progress of this distressing portion of their history. Most of us saw the final catastrophe, when the remnant of the Wyandottes, the last of the *Braves* of the Ohio tribes, "*Reliquias Danaum atque immitis Achillei,*" arrived at our landing, and entered the vessels that were to carry them from the land of their nativity, into perpetual banishment. They seemed to linger, and turn to the north, as if to bid a last farewell to the graves of their children, and the tombs, in which the bones of their fathers had been accumulating, and mouldering, for untold ages.

> "Quis talia fando,
> Myrmidonum, Dolopumve, aut duri miles, Ulyssei.
> Temperet a lachrymis."

Having taken this view of the country and its inhabitants, in their primitive state, our plan leads to an examination of the improvements which had been made by the pioneers, prior to the peace, established by the treaty of Greenville, in 1795; which terminated opposition to the progress of our settlements, and has been considered as the commencement of Western improvements.

In forming a schedule of those improvements, Fort Washington will no doubt, be first remembered. That rude structure stood between Third and Fourth streets produced, east of Eastern Row, now called Broadway, which was then a two pole alley; and formed the eastern boundary of the town, as laid out by the proprietors. It consisted of a large number of strongly built cabins, a story and a half high, calculated for soldiers' barracks, and officers' quarters; so placed, as to form a hollow square, of about one acre, with a block-house for defence, at each angle. It was composed of heavy, hewed logs, cut from the ground on which it stood, which was a tract of fifteen acres, reserved by Congress in the law of 1792, for the accommodation of the garrison. The artificers' yard, an appendage of the garrison, stood on the bank of the river immediately in front. It contained about two acres of ground, enclosed by small, contiguous buildings occupied as work-shops and quarters for laborers. Within the enclosure, there was a large frame building, two stories high, painted yellow, erected by the Quarter-Master

General, more spacious and better finished, than any other in the country, universally known as the *Yellow House*, celebrated in those days, for the luxurious dinners given by its inmates. In the rear of the Fort, north of Fourth street, the Secretary of the territory, Col. Sargeant, owned a block of lots on which he had a convenient frame house, and a finely cultivated garden. Adjoining the Fort, on the East, was the commandant's garden, laid out in good taste, and carefully cultivated by Gen. Harrison, then a subaltern in command of the post. East of and adjoining this garden, the Surgeon General of the Army, Dr. R. Allison, owned a block, called the Peach Grove, on which he lived in a small frame building.

The next edifice, in point of importance, was the Presbyterian Church, on Main street, a plain, frame fabric, about forty feet, by thirty, enclosed with clap-boards, but neither lathed, plastered, nor ceiled. The floor was of boat plank, laid loosely on sleepers. The seats were of the same material, resting on blocks. There was a breastwork of unplained cherry boards, dignified with the name of the pulpit, behind which the clergyman stood on a plank supported by blocks. In that humble edifice, the pioneers assembled statedly, for religious worship, with loaded rifles by their sides, not knowing at what hour an Indian attack might be expected. This building remained in the condition, in which I have described it, at least three years after I came to the country. It was then partially finished and rendered comfortable.

On the south side of the old graveyard, on Fourth street, there was a frame building, erected for a School House, in which the education of the children of the village, was conducted. There was, also, a strong log building on the north half of the public square erected, for a jail, and an upper room was rented, in the tavern of George Avery, on Main street, for the accommodation of the Courts. As the Penitentiary system had not been adopted in the territory, our seats of justice were ornamented with pillories, and stocks, and whipping-posts; and occasionally a gallows was to be seen. These were all the edifices of a public character, then existing in this place, and if we add to them, some fifteen or twenty half-finished frame houses, with stone chimneys, and about three times that number of log cabins, you will have a fair exhibit of the improvements of Cincinnati, at the time of the treaty of Greenville. The only vestige of them now remaining, is the church edifice of the pioneers, which has been removed to Vine street, and is now the property of Judge Burke. With that exception, and probably one or two small houses on Front street, every building in the city has been erected, since I came to it. As a fact in keeping with this exhibit, it may be stated, that when I came to this place, and for some years after, there was a pond of water at the intersection of Fifth and Main streets, filled with Alder-bushes, from which the frogs serenaded us, during the summer months, and which extended so far west, into Main street, as to require a causeway of logs to pass it. In addition to this schedule, there was a Fort at Hamilton, and a block-house at Colerain, and in passing through the Miami Valley, a Station was occasionally seen—a term well understood by frontier settlers, consisting of two, or more, contiguous cabins protected by a block house, and enclosed with pickets. The nearest of these places of defence was Ludlow's station, erected by Col. Israel Ludlow, on St. Clair's trace, a short distance beyond the first crossing of Millcreek. A few miles in advance of that position, was the station of Capt. Jacob White, one of the first and most fearless of the pioneers, who obtained great credit for the gallant manner in which he defended it, against a night attack, by a party of Indians, in which it was his fortune to kill a warrior of uncommon size. Still further in advance, were the stations of Stibbins, Tucker, Dunlap, Cavolt, Flinn, and Girard. The improvements which had been commenced at North Bend, Colerain, and Deerfield, were all of a perishable character, and at this day, have not only disappeared, but their existence is scarcely remembered. At Columbia, in addition to the cabins occupied by the inhabitants, there was a Baptist meeting-house, very much like the one above described, and also, a School House, in which John Reily, now of Hamilton, and the late Judge Dunlavy, of Lebanon, taught the children of that settlement.

The improvements made at Marietta, though more tasty than those of the Miami Valley, were all of a temporary character, and have, long since, disappeared. They form no part of the objects seen at the present day—and, indeed, with the exception of Detroit and the French settlements on the Wabash and the Mississippi, in which some ancient structure may remain, the remark is literally true of every portion of the territory. All the productions, therefore, of art and labor of any material value, now existing in this rich valley, and throughout the Western States, have been constructed since the peace of 1795; and I am confident, the early settlers will concur in the opinion, that ten or twelve years passed after that period, before the spirit of improvement, or the means of indulging it, existed in the country, to any perceptible extent; yet we adhere to the time of the treaty, as the epoch, from which to date their beginning.

After this barren account, of what had been done to improve the country, prior to the peace of Greenville, it will be a relief, to direct your attention to the noble structures now to be seen, in every part of the State; too numerous to be counted; and some of them, too gorgeous to be described. Note the numberless dwelling houses of every form and size, finished with care and taste, for convenience and comfort. See the buildings constructed for manufactories, and for carrying on the mechanic arts; also, those dedicated to the Creator, and devoted to his worship; varying in beauty and taste, from the plain fabric of logs, and the neat, commodious structure of more beautiful and costly materials, to the spacious Temple and the splendid Cathedral. Look at our Asylums for the Deaf and Dumb—for the Blind, the idiot, the insane, the friendless pauper, and the help less infant abandoned to perish, by criminal parents. See what has been done for the cause of science, for the improvement of agriculture, for the convenient administration of justice, and for the punishment and reformation of offenders, and you will be prepared to do justice to the public spirit, and industry of the Western country, when placed in contrast with the Atlantic States.

This array of Western improvement, is not made in the spirit of boasting, but for the laudable purpose of comparison. Yet they who have accomplished it, may be permitted to indulge a little of that pride, which conscious merit excites, and which leads to laudable action. A man must be destitute of ambition, if he can look at great and useful achievements in the accomplishment of which he has participated, and not feel his claim to a share of the honor and praise resulting from them.

With this picture before us, we will examine the progress made in founding and perfecting institutions of a similar character, in other parts of the United States, noting the time they were commenced, in reference to the first settlement of the district, in which they are found, and the period of their completion.

The occupation and improvement of a large portion of the country, east of the mountains, commenced under the colonial government of Great Britain, about two hundred years before a single white American had planted himself in the wilderness, northwest of the Ohio. With this advantage in their favor, as to time, the inquiry is, how their progress compares with ours, in providing for the cultivation and extension of science and the arts—in constructing improvements for the successful prosecution of commerce, in its various branches—in founding and carrying to maturity, humane and religious institutions, and, generally, in making permanent arrangements for the convenience and comfort of life. And, first, it is admitted, that Pennsylvania has been in advance of every other State in the Union, as to the number and variety of her public institutions, scientific and humane; but as to the time of their commencement and completion, though in advance of all the original States, she must yield the point, that she has been tardy, when compared with the State of Ohio.

Look at the great State of New York, the settlement of which began in 1613. See also her magnificent city, bearing her own name, and incorporated as a city, in 1696, almost an hundred years before the first tree was cut from the ground, on which Cincinnati stands, and then compare the progress of that powerful State with ours. How long had she existed, as an organized community before the first of her literary institutions was founded, and how many years afterwards passed, before she could boast of a second. King's College, which was the first established, with power to grant degrees, for proficiency in science and the arts, was chartered in 1754, about an hundred and forty years after the settlement of the colony had commenced. Its charter was new modeled in 1787, when it received the name of Columbia College. This was the only literary institution incorporated and endowed, of which that great State could boast, when the settlement of the North-Western Territory commenced, which was one hundred and seventy-five years after the commencement of her own settlements.

The occupation of Rhode Island by Europeans, began in 1636, and in 1764, one hundred and twenty-eight years thereafter, her first seminary of learning was chartered. New Jersey was settled in 1620. In 1738, one hundred and thirty-eight years thereafter, Nassau Hall, her first literary College, was chartered and located at Newark, but afterwards removed to Princeton. On the other hand, the Ohio University, at Athens, in this State, was incorporated and organized, in the year 1802, within the period of fifteen years after the government of the territory was formed, and only seven years after the establishment of peace, by the treaty of Greenville. The same striking disparity, as to time, between Ohio and all the Atlantic States, will be found to exist, in the commencement and progress of internal improvements, of literary establishments, and of charitable and benevolent institutions.

The great canal of New York, connecting the Hudson river with the Lakes, which has given immortality to the name of De Witt Clinton, was began in the year 1817, two hundred years after the commencement of her settlements, and after she had acquired a population of twelve hundred thousand souls. Our principal Canal, connecting the Ohio river with Lake Erie, was undertaken in 1820, only thirty-two years after the first effort was made, to effect a settlement on this side of the Ohio, and when our population, in round numbers, was five hundred and seventy-six thousand. Again, the first public road of any importance, in the State of New York, connecting the Hudson river with the Lakes, was undertaken in 1790, as a measure, indispensably necessary, to counteract the projects of Pennsylvania, to secure to herself the trade of the West. This was one hundred and seventy years after the settlement of that state had commenced. The Legislature of Ohio began to patronize improvements of that character, at an early period. The first law for constructing and regulating paved roads, was passed in 1817, only twenty-two years after the treaty of Greenville.

If the same examination be extended to other improvements, and to each of the original States, the same results will be ascertained. A similar discrepancy, in reference to time, between them and us, will be found to exist, in the completion of all the institutions, which give character and comfort to civilized communities. But time does not permit to pursue the inquiry in detail. I remark, therefore, generally, that during the first thirty-three years, after Ohio became a State, ninety-four library societies, and twenty-two literary associations were formed by the citizens, and incorporated, under different names, with various privileges. Twenty-one companies and associations for the improvement of agriculture and manufactures, were also formed and incorporated; and within the same period thirty-one laws were passed to protect and improve the navigable waters of the State. In addition to these, the legislature incorporated seven navigation companies, thirteen rail road companies, forty-four turnpike companies, six private canal companies, sixteen benevolent and charitable associations, forty-three seminaries and academies, twelve literary colleges and universities, and three medical colleges. They established a system of free schools extending into every township and settlement of the State. They erected and endowed, at the seat of government, three spacious Asylums, for the Deaf and Dumb, for the Blind, and for the Insane. The Commercial Hospital and Lunatic Asylum, and the Orphan Asylum in this city, have also been founded and endowed; to which must be added, the extensive public works constructed by the State, at an expense of about eighteen millions of dollars; and to close the catalogue, we refer to the Penitentiary edifice at Columbus, as a model for imitation.

These advances in improvement, made within the first forty years after we became a State, and within fifty years after the settlement of the Territory commenced, establish the proposition, that Ohio has accomplished, in that short period, an amount of improvement equal to the aggregate of similar improvements, made in any one of the original States, during the first two hundred years succeeding the commencement of its settlement.

Go into either of those States and ask, where is your "light house of the skies," with its telescope penetrating the heavens—carrying the vision of man to distances beyond the power of numbers to express, and bringing to view worlds and systems, of which the inhabitants of our globe, had no previous conception? The response will be, nowhere! and the fact will stand out, that Ohio has surpassed them, in the rapidity of the progress of her public institutions, as well as in the early period of her existence, at which they were commenced.

However negligent the State governments may have been, in patronizing the literature of the country, the general Government has been far more so. When the venerable patriot, who laid the corner-stone of our Observatory, thought it his duty, as President of the United States, to urge Congress to do for the Union, what we are now attempting to accomplish for the West, the proposition was rejected with apparent rudeness, though the nation was enduring the reproach of all Europe, for refusing to contribute her just share to the general stock of knowledge. With such a discouraging example before them, it was scarcely to be hoped, that the individual States would make efforts to accomplish what the government of the nation had declined. Yet Ohio, one of the junior States, has laid the foundation of her Observatory, in advance of all others, unless Pennsylvania be an exception; and as to her, it is understood, that her Astronomer could not succeed in raising funds to erect a building, on which to mount his Telescope, till the citizens of Philadelphia were excited to action, by the appearance of Professor Mitchell, on his way to Europe, to procure astronomical instruments for us. This single fact reflects high praise on the movement of our Society. It affords proof, that they, and the people of the West generally, entertain just views on the subject of education, and it confirms our anticipation, that in addition to the contributions to be made, by our Observatory, to the general stock of astronomical science, our example would exert a salutary influence on the views and movements of other associations, and of other States.

The general apathy on this subject, which had prevailed every where, gave strong indications, that this most majestic of the sciences, had but few friends, and scarcely a patron, in all the land. Let me not be misunderstood. There have always been a few devotees to this science, scattered through the country, in the West as well as elsewhere, but, unfortunately, destitute of the means necessary to advance, or sustain it. In the Western country, there has been an available apology, for the apparent apathy which has existed. We have been, hitherto, few in number, and comparatively poor—we have had all our public institutions—our State and county improvements, and our private accommodations to project and complete, and the pressure of this burden was upon us, in our infancy, from which we are now only just emerged. But the spirit, and the will of our people, have been, and are still, in the right direction, however limited their means may be. Probably, no scientific enterprise was ever projected, under circumstances less promising, than those which accompanied the first movement in favor of this institution. The idea of raising, by subscription, in a young, commercial, and manufacturing community, just growing into notice—having scarcely arrived at maturity, and deeply involved in the cares and perplexities of business, a sum of money sufficient for such a purpose, at a period of the greatest pecuniary embarrassment, to which any country has been subjected, seemed to be hopeless. At the time the subscription was opened, the banking institutions of the State, had been driven to extremities, by unwise legislation —the currency had been reduced in amount, far below the wants of commerce—confidence between man and man, in all the transactions of business, had been greatly weakened, and in most cases, destroyed, and credit was, nowhere, to be found. In such a state of things, it required more than a common share of resolution, to engage in such an enterprise; and when Professor Mitchell presented his little book, containing the names of some sixty, or seventy subscribers, for twenty-five dollars each, and declared his intention to persevere, till he raised a sum sufficient to establish an Observatory, and supply it with the finest instruments Europe could afford, at a probable cost of twelve or fifteen thousand dollars, I must say that I had but little faith in the success of his undertaking. It seemed like an effort to produce something from nothing. The result, however, has proved, that the public spirit and liberality of our citizens, and the persevering energy of Professor Mitchell, were very imperfectly understood. By his exertions, and the liberality of our distinguished fellow citizen, N. Longworth, Esq., from whom we have received, as a donation, the beautiful and valuable premises on which the Observatory is now being erected, the effort has succeeded; and nothing, in the ordinary course of things, can now check its progress, or prevent it from being carried to its final completion. Mount Adams, immortalized by the presence and the deeds of the venerable man, whose name it bears, and whose devotion to science prompted him, at an inclement season, to travel a thousand miles, to give his sanction and the influence of his name to our enterprise, will present to posterity from her lofty summit the edifice we are now erecting, for science and for our country, long after we are gathered to our fathers, and our names shall have been forgotten.

It is by no means the least of the benefits of our enterprise, that it operates as a stimulating example to others. This result was anticipated, and is already becoming realized. It was not till after the formation of this Society had been announced in the public prints, in connection with the fact, that a sum had been raised sufficient to purchase a Telescope of the highest power, and that our Agent was on his way to Europe for that purpose, that a single State in the Union appeared to bestow one serious thought on the subject. Immersed in the cares of business, they were inattentive to the importance of cultivating the Sciences, and especially the Science of Astronomy; but since our Association has become known, a manifest change has taken place, in the feelings and views of the community, on this interesting subject. In several of the States, Associations have been formed and funds provided, to prosecute this Science; and we now see the General Government engaged in the establishment of a National Observatory, which they are furnishing with instruments from Europe, but inferior in power and value to ours.

What influence our movement has had on theirs, it is not necessary to decide. If, however, reference be had to the respective periods, at which their and our operations commenced, it will be found, that in point of time, we preceded them. Their first movement in reference to this subject, was after Professor Mitchell, on his way to Europe, visited the seat of Government, for the purpose of obtaining letters of introduction from members of the Cabinet and others, to the *literati* of Europe. If in this I am correct, we are entitled to claim the honor, which of right belongs to the pioneer. Be this as it may, we know that our movement has excited, everywhere, a spirit of inquiry, the result of which, has been a conviction, that our nation is far behind the age, in reference to the efforts she has made, to improve and extend the study of Astronomy and its kindred sciences. This impression is producing its appropriate effect. Means are in progress, in different parts of the country, to follow our lead, and wipe out the offensive imputation, that we undervalue the sciences, or are too parsimonious to furnish the means to sustain them. It cannot be admitted for a moment, that either of these offensive imputations is justly chargeable to any portion of the American people. They undestand the value of science, and they estimate the duty of cherishing it, as correctly as is done in any part of the world. The truth is, that negligence, and a want of reflection, have been the ground of complaint, and these have been the result of unremitted devotion to business; and the consequent postponement of almost everything else, to some future, and more convenient season. The great mass of our citizens understand that general intelligence is indispensible to the preservation of representative government, such as ours; and in the midst of their hurry and devotion to business, and the consequent neglect of the sciences, it has been their purpose, when time would permit, to cherish and sustain them. This purpose, they will most assuredly carry out, until the reproach brought on them by former procrastination, has been entirely removed. Already we see public attention directed to this subject, and measures in progress, here and elsewhere, to sustain the cause of science, and especially to advance the knowledge of Astronomy—multiply its friends, and increase its discoveries. The scientific mechanist is engaged in perfecting improvements, which will extend the vision of the Astronomer, into regions of space, yet unexplored. The improvements already made, have brought to view unnumbered worlds, which, from the days of creation, had been hid from the whole human race; and judging from what has been accomplished, and from the improvements in progress, it may be assumed, that discoveries are about to be made, as surprising as any heretofore effected. There may be laws impressed on matter by the Almighty at its formation, yet to be brought to light, simplifying and explaining phenomena, which have hitherto eluded the most searching investigations of science. Although we disclaim the theory of human perfectibility, as utopian folly, devised by the enemies of truth, to bewilder and mislead; still we believe that man's mental powers have not been carried to their utmost limit. Instruments will be invented, more perfect than those which are now in use. Observations and experiments will be conducted with more exactness, than heretofore, and improvements may be made in mathematical science, leading to the discovery of new modes of analysis, for the deduction of unknown truths, from such as have been discovered. Who can prescribe limits to the discoveries of genius? Let him who would essay to do so, look back, two centuries, to the birth of Newton—ascertain the state of the arts and sciences at that epoch, and note the astonishing improvements and discoveries, which have since been made, and which were then wholly unanticipated. Such a retrospect cannot fail to remove incredulity, on this point.

We frequently hear it said, that this is the age of discovery, and everything around us indicates that it is so. The march of mind is onward—as it meets and overcomes one difficulty, it obtains the means of grappling, successfully, with another, and thus its advance is in an increasing ratio. But still there are branches of science, so imperfectly known, that they who have made the most successful efforts to cultivate them, honestly tell us, that their discoveries serve only to show, how little they have learnt. What, for example, do our wisest philosophers know, either of Magnetism or Electricity, which some of them have conjectured to be the same substance, under different modifications. A mysterious influence, neither understood nor accounted for, but operating every where with apparent uniformity, has been noticed, and has received the name of Magnetism—a subtle fluid, first recognized by the brilliant displays of its power, has received the name of Electricity; but such has been the ignorance of the world, in regard to it, that its identity with lightning, though suspected, was not ascertained with certainty, till the days of Dr. Franklin. All admit, that we are profoundly ignorant of the properties, laws, and modes of action, of either of these wonderful powers. True, we know, that by the former, the mariner is directed in his pathless voyage, without guide-post, or land-mark, and the geometer is enabled to pursue his course, with great accuracy. We know, also, that by the latter, the clouds are kept suspended over our heads in a gaseous state, and that under certain circumstances, it exhibits the power of attraction and repulsion. If to these you add a few other phenomena, you will have the aggregate of what is known, of two of the most universal, and powerful agents, which the Creator of the Universe has ordained, to carry out his magnificent, incomprehensible purposes. Whatever advances may have been made in other branches of Science, it is manifest, that in these, the aggregate of discovery, can scarcely be called the commencement of a beginning.

These interesting subjects cannot remain enveloped in darkness. Light will be let in upon them. Their action is too powerful and too universal, not to call forth the utmost energies of the human mind, to ascertain what they are—what effects they produce, in the natural world—what laws, or influences they obey—how far they can be controlled, and to what purposes they may be applied. Measures are in progress, which must lead to developements in these and in other branches of science as important as any heretofore made.

The time, I have no doubt, will come, when the tornado and the earthquake—the winter storm and the summer shower, will be traced, with perfect certainty, to the exclusive agency of the electric fluid, and when the professor of the healing art, by a more perfect knowledge of its properties and laws, will obtain an increased control over the ills, and especially the pains of the human frame—nor would it be surprising, if that mysterious fluid, should be made a safe, certain, and profitable substitute for steam. It may also be ascertained, hereafter, that He who made and governs it, has subjected the winds and the tides to its control. These ideas are strongly impressed on my mind, and induce a belief, that some who are here present, may live to see, what is now advanced as conjecture, become admitted truth. There must be arcana yet to be revealed, both in the physical and in the moral world. The records of truth assure us, that the Creator, made all things for his own glory, and it must be inferred, that the more extensively they are known, the more perfectly they will accomplish the purpose of their formation: and although this little globe of earth we inhabit, is scarcely a speck in creation, yet it is as distinctly, and constantly, in the view of the Creator, as the entire, and to us, incomprehensible whole. The friends of revelation should therefore be among the first to sustain the Astronomer, in his efforts to penetrate space, to the greatest possible extent, for in so doing, they are accomplishing the purpose of their Maker, by extending the knowledge of his works.

To impress the mind, with a sense of the dignity and importance of the study of Astronomy, the attention of the world has been called to the subject, by the Deity himself, in different parts of the Bible. I can refer only to one. In the Book of Job, which has been supposed to be allegorical, and to have been written fifteen hundred years before the Christian Era, we find references to this sublime science, either indicating, historically, the results of human observation, or prophetically alluding to discoveries thereafter to be made. Some of you will remember the reference of Professor Mitchell, in his late course of Lectures before the Society, to the chapter in which Job is challenged by his Maker to "bind the sweet influences of Pleiades—to loose the bands of Orion, or to bring forth Mazaroth in his season;" which expression he supposed might have referred to the indication of the approach of the vernal equinox, afforded by the heliacal rising of the Pleiades, and to the discovery of the annual path of the Sun, in his apparent movement in the heavens.

It may also be remembered, that in the same course of Lectures, he gave us an explanation of what is now called the theory of La Place, which professes to account for the formation of solid bodies, existing in space, by the gradual operation of the established laws of nature, acting on chaotic masses of nebulous matter. The surprising discoveries, which that Astronomer has made on this subject, seem to establish the truth of his theory, and to prove, that its operations are constantly going on in the heavens. The Telescope has presented to his eye, stars partially formed, in the midst of masses of nebulous matter, apparently boundless in extent. Some of these bodies are described as being more perfectly formed than others, but all of them progressing to perfection. These discoveries must be universally interesting; but particularly to those who adopted a theory similar to that which they indicate, before they were publicly known. This was the fact with regard to myself. Many years ago, when examining the Mosaic account of creation, with a view of satisfying myself that the different statements it contains, harmonize with each other, and with the discoveries of geological science, there seemed to be difficulties, which I could not solve, consistently with the meaning, generally given to some words and phrases, used in the narrative. As, for example, I could find nothing to sustain the common interpretation of the phrase, "and the evening and the morning were the first day," inasmuch as

,‘the evening and the morning” had completed the first and the second day, before the earth was formed, or could have made a revolution on its axis, by which the day is measured. I could not conceive of any measurement of time, then used or known, adapted to the literal interpretation of those words.

I was satisfied, from the language used by Moses, that the matter, out of which the solar system was formed, had been created, and was in a gaseous, chaotic state, long anterior to the transaction disclosed by him. I was also satisfied, that all the particles which compose the sun, the planets, and our atmosphere, were mingled together in promiscuous confusion, and that the creation described by Moses, was the organization of our system from that chaotic mass, extending, probably, far beyond the orbit of the most remote of our planets.

When reflecting on this subject, the thought naturally crossed my mind, that it might be a question, whether the system was necessarily organized, by immediate efforts of Omnipotent power, exerted during the period of six days, each consisting of twenty-four hours, or whether it might not have been brought about, within six periods of undefined duration, by the gradual operation of laws originally impressed on matter, by its Creator. The latter seemed to be the most natural, and, indeed, the only theory, on which I could reconcile the Mosaic account with itself. I became convinced, that the phrase, translated six days, might mean six periods of time, of any duration, and that the work of creation might have been accomplished within those six periods, either by commands of the Deity, instantaneously executed, or by the slow operation of laws, which Omnipotence had impressed on matter.

As the sun was first produced, and is in the centre of the system, it was a natural supposition, that when the spirit of God moved on the face of the waters, followed by the mandate, “let there be light,” the process of organization commenced, by a simultaneous movement of the particles of matter, which compose the sun, from every surrounding point, to the centre of chaos, and that by this process, within the period ordained, the labor of the first day was finished, by the formation of the great orb of day. By a similar operation of the same laws, the planets might have been formed, and the entire work of creation finished, as stated by Moses.

These views were communicated to the Secretary of the Historical and Philosophical Society of Ohio, in a note to a letter addressed to him, in 1837, and published among the transactions of that Society, before I had any knowledge of the discoveries or opinions of La Place, on the subject.

Extracts from that letter are before me, some of which I would read, were not your patience exhausted.

In conclusion, suffer me to say, that I have been venturing on ground, on which I have not been accustomed to tread, for years, and from which, a proper exercise of prudence might have restrained me. But if I have succeeded, even in a small degree, in contributing to your gratification, I shall not regret having made the effort.

EXTRACTS, &C.

* * * * Although Moses had been instructed in all the literature of Egypt, where advances had been made in the study of Astronomy, yet, at that early period, the science was in its infancy. The most cultivated of the human family knew but little of the heavenly bodies, or of the laws, which keep them in their orbits, and regulate their movements. The influence they exert on each other, was not understood, nor could it be, while the laws of gravity and attraction were unknown. Such was the state of astronomical science, when Moses was directed to write his narrative. As a matter of course, he did it in such language as his scientific acquirements, enabled him to employ. It was not deemed expedient to inspire him with a knowledge of Astronomy, although, with the limited information he possessed in that science, he could not record the facts, as a skilful astronomer might have done. He has, therefore, given them in the concise, simple, but beautiful language, in which we find them. * * * In the process of transforming matter from chaos, to the organized *state* in which it now appears, Moses informs us, that the particles of light were collected—earth and water were separated—a firmament was produced—an atmosphere was thrown around the earth, and the planets were produced, and placed in their orbits. Yet no explanation is given, of the means by which these results were brought about. Why was it so? Simply, because it seemed good in the sight of the Almighty, to confine his revelation to the fact, that by his own power, he created and organized the solar system, by progressive movements, in the space of six days. His chief object seems to have been, to give publicity to the great truth, that he alone is the Creator of the heavens and the earth. This being proclaimed and known, the great purpose of the revelation was accomplished. Moses was neither commanded nor inspired, to instruct the world in Philosophy or Astronomy. The object of his revelation was of a different character. It was to convince men of the majesty and power of their Creator, not to enlighten them, as to the means by which he accomplishes his purposes. It was to reach the heart, rather than the head, and to hold men to their allegiance to heaven, by the influence of confidence, veneration, and fear. * * * *

The first and second verses describe the condition of the chaotic mass, out of which God organized the solar system, as it was when he commenced that work. The terms used, are well selected to represent a confused mixture of all the varieties of matter, found in the solar system. It is said to be without *form* and *void*—it is called a *deep*, covered with *darkness*, and is spoken of as *waters*. These expressions could be correctly applied only to a chaos of nebulous matter, in a state of partial fluidity. * * * These verses seem to be an exordium, or introduction to the narrative, intended to show what the Creator had done "*in the beginning;*" but when the beginning was, we are not informed. It might have been myriads of ages before our system was organized. Be this as it may, the inspired pen, which recorded the history, has written it in terms, which cannot be mistaken, that the matter composing our system, was created before the earth was formed into shape, and before the sun, moon and stars, were placed in the firmament. * * * * * *

The sun might have been formed in a moment, and might instantly have thrown out his light upon the surrounding darkness. The text will bear that construction, but it is difficult to find a reason why it may not receive a different one, with equal propriety, and in perfect consistency, with the verity and fidelity of the revelation. In the Almighty mind, there is no such thing, as past, present, and to come. It is one eternal *now*. All portions of time with him are as points, whether days, or months, or thousands of years. The Deity might have created the Universe in a moment, by his own immediate agency, without intervening causes, as well as to have accomplished it in six days; but He chose not to do so. He saw proper to make it a progressive work, and to complete it in different, successive periods of time. The duration of those periods, would seem to be a matter of little moment, while the truth of the history is acknowledged and believed. The purposes of the revelation are equally gained, whether you consider the days spoken of, as periods of twenty-four hours, or periods of much longer duration.

* * * * How would the friends of the Bible succeed in defending it against the attacks of infidelity, were they to maintain the principle of literal construction, throughout? Large portions of it are necessarily admitted to be figurative, and receive all their application and force from that admission. What would be the interpretation of the *seventy weeks* of Daniel, if the term week should be taken in its literal meaning? All commentators agree, that it means a much longer period than the word expresses, according to its popular acceptation. * * * If a similar license can be taken, the whole work of creation may have been completed in the order recited by Moses, by the power of the Almighty, operating by laws which he had ordained,

calculated to produce the results he intended. This hypothesis does not impinge on the verity of the Mosaic account, and most certainly it does not detract from the infinite power of the Creator. It rather gives a more exalted, as it does a more intelligent, idea of both. There is something sublime in the conception of such a union of power and wisdom, as must be brought into exercise by a Being, who ordains laws, operating through all space, producing, in exact accordance with his will, such stupendous results as we see displayed in our planetary system. The fact, that those laws accomplish the purpose of *Him* who ordained them, by slow, progressive action, so as to consummate the intended results, in the course of many ages, detracts nothing from the character of their divine Author. * * * *

When the command was given, "let there be light," might not the laws of gravity and attraction, or some other law of the Deity, not yet discovered, have commenced the progressive work of obeying the mandate? And if this had been the process, would any attribute of the great Creator have been affected, by the duration of the period in which it was accomplished? Reason and devotion answer, no. * * * * * Divines and Philosophers unite in admitting, that as soon as the planets were formed and put in motion, the Deity ceased the exercise of his immediate power, and left them to continue in motion, by the influence of the laws, which He had impressed on matter. After this admission, will any one venture to say, that he could not with perfect ease, have organized them, by the same laws by which he keeps them in motion? This hypothesis creates no just cause of alarm for the verity, or the inspiration of the account given by Moses. Although the work of creation has been recorded by an inspired pen, how much of the detail can we comprehend? The powers of the narrator were too feeble to understand, or explain the *modus operandi* of Omnipotence. He tells us that God commanded and it was done; but how, or in what manner the mandate was obeyed, was an unrevealed mystery.

CHARTER

OF THE CINCINNATI ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY.

Sec. 1. Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Ohio, That whereas J. Burnet, W. Goodman, L. Whiteman, O. M. Mitchel, E. Poor, H. Starr, J. H. Perkins, M. G. Williams, E. D. Mansfield, J. P. Foote, J. T. Brooke, G. P. Torrence, M. Greenwood, J. Jonas, J. P. Harrison, M. T. Williams and others, have associated themselves under the title of the Cincinnati Astronomical Society, and as such hold property; the purpose of such Society being to cultivate astronomical science, and to accomplish original observations in Astronomy; therefore, the same is hereby created a body corporate, with perpetual succession, and in said name shall have power to acquire, hold, and enjoy such property, real and personal, as may be proper and convenient for the attainment of the objects of the Society, by purchase, donation, or otherwise, and all such rights and privileges as may be necessary and convenient for the proper management and control of the same, and the same to dispose of, as may be the most conducive to the best interests of the Society; and said Society shall have power to contract and be contracted with, to sue and be sued, plead and be impleaded, to answer and be answered unto in all courts, having competent jurisdiction in the premises; and said Society shall have power to use a common seal, and the same to alter; to make by-laws and such other regulations as shall be thought necessary and proper for the good government of the affairs of said Society, and the same to alter and amend, subject, however, to the following *restrictions*, viz: First; the Board of Control hereinafter provided for, shall contract no debts beyond the means of the Society to pay promptly, with money on hand, or debts whose payments may, with certainty be relied on; for all amounts beyond this, said Board shall be personally responsible. Second; the said Society shall neither by its own act, nor that of its officers or agents, sell, or in any manner convey away, the lot of land to be conveyed by N. Longworth to said Society, being a donation from him for the erection of an Observatory, nor the right of way to said lot, as now existing, unless for some public purpose, nor during the life of the donor, without his consent. Third; the said Society shall neither by its own act, nor that of its officers or agents, create in any manner a mortgage or other lien upon the lot of land above referred to, nor upon any of the astronomical instruments belonging to the Observatory which is to be built thereon, and any such lien, if created, shall be void in law and equity. Fourth; no judgment of any court of law, nor decree of any court of Chancery, shall operate as any lien on the land above referred to, nor on the great eqatorial Telescope which is to be placed in the Observatory, to be built thereon. Fifth; no taxes or assessments, made by law for State, County, Township, City, or other purposes, shall be levied on the land referred to, or the Observatory to be built thereon, or any of the instruments or other property of said Society, connected with said Observatory.

Sec. 2. That the property of said Society be divided into shares, the number to be determined, and the value and mode of sale fixed by the Society, according to its own constitution or bylaws, formed under this Charter.

Sec. 3. That the management of the aforesaid Society be confided to a Board of Control, who shall be chosen in accordance with, and whose number and duties shall be defined in the Constitution and By-Laws formed under this Charter.

Sec. 4. That it shall not be lawful for said Society, its officers, or agents, to emit bills of credit or any notes as a circulating medium, or in any manner to engage in the business of banking.

Sec. 5. That said Association and the corporators thereof, shall be subject to the provisions of an Act, instituting proceedings against Corporations not possessing banking privileges, and the visatorial powers of Courts, and to provide for the regulation of Corporations generally, passed March seventh, one thousand, eight hundred and forty-two.*

JOHN M. GALLAGHER,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.
THOMAS W. BARTLEY,
Speaker of the Senate.

March 4th, A. D. 1844.

Secretary of State's Office.
March 8, 1844.

It is hereby certified that the foregoing is a true copy of the original on file in this Department.

J. SLOANE, Sec'y of State.

---

* This law, which makes the stockholders of private corporations personally liable, contains the following proviso: "Provided that in all corporations of a private nature, incorporated for purposes exclusively religious, charitable, or *literary*, the Directors, Trustees, or Managers, by whatever name they may be called, shall be individually liable for all debts of such corporations, contracted during their continuance in office; *but the other members of said corporations shall not be held thus individually liable.*

CONSTITUTION

OF THE CINCINNATI ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY.

As amended, March 20th, 1844.

PREAMBLE.

Believing it to be the duty of every people to foster science, and to add, as far as possible, to the general stock of human knowledge; recognizing to the fullest extent, the claims which the world has on the several republics composing the United States, to contribute to the promotion of science, in proportion to their natural, social, and constitutional advantages; realizing the truth, that in our own country, and under a republican form of government, the people must hold, with respect to all great scientific enterprises, that position of patrons, which in monarchial governments is held by Kings and Emperors; and knowing that our country is comparatively deficient in means and instruments to accomplish original observations in Astronomy; Therefore, for the purpose of furnishing our city with an Observatory and Astronomical Instruments, in all respects adequate to the wants of science, we, the undersigned, have united and agree to contribute the sums already subscribed, and for our mutual guidance and government, do adopt the following

CONSTITUTION.

Art. 1. This Association shall be called the **Cincinnati Astronomical Society**, and shall be composed of all such persons as have already subscribed, or may hereafter subscribe, for one or more shares of stock, sold for the purpose of raising a fund to carry out the design set forth in the foregoing preamble.

Art. 2. This Society shall elect annually, on the first Monday in June, or on such other day as the Society may appoint for any year, by ballot or otherwise, the following officers, viz: a President, a Secretary, a Treasurer, and eight Directors, in all eleven officers, who shall constitute a Board of Control, and shall have the management of the fiscal affairs of the Society; said officers to continue until their successors are chosen. Six members of the Board shall constitute a quorum, to transact business.

Art. 3. The Board of Control, immediately after their appointment in the present year, and whenever it may be necessary hereafter, shall elect a Director of the Observatory, who shall hold his office until resignation or removal; such election or removal to be approved by the Society, at its next meeting.

Art. 4. The President shall preside at all meetings of the Society and of the Board, and shall discharge the duties usually devolving upon such officer in other like associations.

Art. 5. The Directors and other officers constituting the Board of Control, shall deliberate upon and devise such means, as may in their judgment most effectually carry out the objects designed to be accomplished by this Society.

Art. 6. The Secretary shall keep a fair record of the transactions of the Society and of the Board.

Art. 7. It shall be the duty of the Treasurer to collect and safely keep all dues of the Society, to audit all accounts, and pay out money under the order of the Board of Control, and to discharge the duties usually assigned to such officer. His accounts shall at all times be open for the inspection of a Committee of the Board, which may be appointed for the purpose. He shall be required to give bond for the faithful discharge of his duty.

Art. 8. The Board of Control shall contract no debt beyond the means of the Society to pay promptly, with money on hand or debts whose payment may with certainty be relied on. For all amounts beyond this, they make themselves responsible, not the Society.

Art. 9. It shall be the duty of the Director of the Observatory to take charge of the Observatory, and all books, instruments, and apparatus therein, belonging to the Society, and preserve them, as far as possible, in complete order. He shall conduct a series of scientific observations, such as may, in conjunction with other similar observations, conduce to new discoveries, and perfect those already made in the Heavens. It shall further be his duty by himself, or such assistants as he may from time to time appoint, to aid in gratifying the curiosity of such members of the Society as may desire to examine the Heavens through the Telescope. He shall also deliver each year, a course of Lectures, before such members of the Society, and such other citizens as may purchase a ticket to the same; the sale of these tickets to constitute his only compensation for the services rendered to the Society.

Art. 10. The funds of the Society shall be derived from the sale of shares of stock, and from such as may desire to unite in promoting the object of this Society. Each share to be sold for the sum of twenty-five dollars. The holder of one or more shares, upon payment for the same, shall receive from the President and

Treasurer, a certificate, setting forth the purchase and payment, which certificate shall entitle him to the privileges of full membership.

Art. 11. The holder of one share, being the head of a family, shall be entitled to a family ticket, which shall admit two members of the family at a time, to the privileges of the Observatory.

The holder of one share, not having a family, shall be entitled to a ticket, which shall admit himself and a lady in his company, to the same privileges.

The holder of more than one share, to enjoy advantages proportioned to the number of shares held. The Board of Control shall have power to fix the days and hours, when the Observatory shall be open to visiters.

Art. 12. The stock may be alienated by sale and transfer on the books of the Treasurer, in the usual way. The seller thus resigning his membership to the purchaser, who shall, from the date of the purchase, enjoy all the privileges of full membership.

Art. 13. This Society may, from time to time, adopt such by-laws as may be found necessary.

Art. 14. The Directory shall make an Annual report of their acts to the Society.

Art. 15. The Director of the Observatory shall make an annual report to the Society.

Art. 16. This Constitution may be altered or amended, by a vote of two-thirds of the stockholders present, provided seventy shares be represented, the alteration or amendment having been proposed in writing, at a previous meeting. On every question brought up for decision, each share of stock shall entitle the holder to one vote.

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF CONTROL,

To the Cincinnati Astronomical Society.

In agreement with the provision of the Constitution, the Board of Control will submit a brief statement of their operations, for the past year.

At the last annual meeting, it was stated, that Nicholas Longworth, Esq., of this city, had generously offered to the Society, a lot of four acres of ground, on the hill, east of the city, as a site for the Observatory building. Since that time, the ground has been located, and enclosed with a substantial and neat paling fence, the foundation of the Observatory has been laid, and the lot planted with ornamental trees and shrubbery. A suitable building has also been erected on the premises, for the accommodation of the keeper of the grounds. A road, leading from the end of Sixth street to the Observatory, half a mile in length, has been laid out, graded, and covered with stone, so that carriages may now ascend with ease and perfect safety. The ground over which the road passes, was given for the purpose, by Messrs. Clark Williams, N. Longworth, and Alexander H. Ewing.

It has been ascertained, that a slight alteration in the plan of the Observatory building, will afford some important advantages, which could not be embraced in the former plan; and, as these advantages will be more than an equivalent for the small additional expense, the Board have thought it best to agree to the modification.

825752

For the purpose of giving efficiency and unity to our operations, in carrying forward the building, the Board have appointed Mr. Mitchel, General Agent, under the following Resolution:

Resolved, That Mr. Mitchel be appointed General Agent for the Society, with powers to procure new subscriptions of stock, to collect moneys due the Society, to superintend the erection of the Observatory building, and to make contracts for materials, and for the work to be done on the same.

Since his appointment, he has been urging forward the objects of the Society with all possible despatch.

At the last annual meeting, the number of shares of stock which had been taken, was about - - - - 400
Since then there have been taken about - - 200

Making in all - - - - - - - - 600 shares.

Of these, 500 shares are to be paid in cash, and 100 in work and materials, for the buildings on the grounds.

The amount of cash collected on stock, is about $12,000.00, and the amount remitted to the manufacturers of the Telescope, is $6,000.00, leaving a balance of about $3,100.00, yet to be remitted.* The Instrument will be completed, and forwarded to Cincinnati, in the month of August, next.

We cannot close this report, without referring to the generous donation of five hundred dollars, received from the ladies of the city. This sum was the proceeds of a Soiree, recently held, for the purpose of aiding the Society. Such an expressson of regard for the promotion of Astronomical science, calls for the sincerest thanks of the Society.

Respectfully submitted,
M. G. WILLIAMS, Secretary.

Cincinnati, June 3, 1844.

---

* Immediately after the organization of the new Board, a sufficient amount was collected for the payment of the Telescope, which was ordered from Munich. The whole cost of the Instrument—about $9,100.00—has now been transmitted to the manufacturers.

REPORT OF THE AGENT.

The Director of the Observatory made a verbal Report, of which the following is the substance:

By the Constitution of this Society, it is made the duty of the Director of the Observatory, to make an Annual Report. Would that it were possible for me to comply with the spirit, as well as with the letter of the Constitution; for, then the toil and drudgery, which for two years, have marked the course of this enterprise, would be ended, and I should have entered upon these duties, towards which we have been constantly aiming, but which, as yet, are only grasped by faith.

As Director of the Observatory, I have no report to make. During the past year, my occupation has not been among the stars, but in matters purely terrestrial. In the month of March, I was appointed General Agent for the Society, with full power and authority, to settle all bills yet due on account of stock, to obtain new subscribers, collect money, contract for building, and to superintend the same.

Under this appointment, the labor of collecting the sum of six thousand dollars, was commenced. This was the sum yet to be paid on the great Equatorial, before it could be shipped for the United States, as our contract binds us to pay the entire amount, before the Instrument leaves the hands of the manufacturer.

It required all the patience, energy, systematic effort, and perseverance, of which I am the possessor, to accomplish this most difficult enterprise. I devoted a certain number of hours each day, to the business of collecting, and in about six weeks from the time of commencing, we were enabled to remit to London 3000 dollars.

There yet remained 3000 dollars to be raised and forwarded, to complete the payment. This amount was not even subscribed. After deliberating maturely, upon the best plan of raising the amount, it was determined to make an appeal to our wealthy citizens, and to secure the amount, if possible, in sums of one and two hundred dollars. A subscription list was opened on this plan, and by the kind assistance of several friends, and the liberal contributions of the subscribers, we are able to announce, that the last payment of three thousand dollars will be in readiness, to be remitted by the next Steam Packet, that of 1st July.

By a letter, received last week from the manufacturers in Munich, we are informed that the Telescope will be ready for shipment in all the month of August next, so that it may be expected to reach Cincinnati in the month of October.

Our efforts and attention are now directed to the Observatory buildings. A small cottage has been erected and furnished, and is now occupied by one of the laborers, who has the care of the grounds belonging to the Society. Some three hundred trees and shrubs have been set, and are in a flourishing condition.

On a review of the plan of the building, it was found to be cheaper to build of stone than of brick, as we have the stone on the ground, and they cost nothing but the quarrying.

This change required the foundations to be re-laid, and made thicker and deeper. A change in the plan of the building has been adopted by the Board of Control, by which convenient quarters, for the Director of the Observatory, will be prepared, under the same roof which covers the Instruments. About 2000 dollars in work and materials, have been subscribed and collected in due bills, to be devoted to the erection of the building.

The work is now progressing as rapidly as possible. There are 10 persons employed on the building, who are regularly paid at the close of each week.

This method of conducting the work renders it impossible to accumulate debts, while at the same time better work is done than that usually obtained on contracts.

Every effort will be made to have the building ready for the reception of the instruments.

What yet remains to be done is a small matter in comparison to what has been effected. Almost every day adds a new name to the list of stockholders—a list which, in extent, in the variety of occupations of the subscribers, in the circumstances under which the subscriptions have been made, stands unparalleled in the history of Science.

In conclusion, I must be permitted to express my profoundest gratitude to every individual who, in spite of multiplied predictions of failure and consequent disgrace, has freely contributed his money and his assistance, hoping almost against hope, and by faith positively removing mountains.

For two years the responsibility of paying the sum of nine thousand dollars, has been weighing me down by day and by night. That responsibility is now removed, and henceforward the race will be run with a light heart and a buoyant step.

OFFICERS.

(*Elected June 3d*, 1844.)

JACOB BURNET, *President*,

M. G. WILLIAMS, *Secretary*,

WM. GOODMAN, *Treasurer*,

DIRECTORS.

HENRY STARR,
J. O. PERKINS,
CLARK WILLIAMS,
O. M. MITCHEL,
MILES GREENWOOD,
GRIFFIN TAYLOR,
JOHN P. FOOTE,
JOHN T. BROOKE,

NAMES OF THE STOCKHOLDERS.

E. Poor,
B. Boylan,
Henry Starr,
J. S. Armstrong,
Jacob Strader,
A. Young,
J. C. Vaughan,
Elam P. Langdon,
Geo. W. Phillips,
Henry H. Goodman,
Thos. J. Biggs,
R. C. Brasher,
Rukard Hurd,
Griffin Yeatman,
H. L. Reeder,
Sam'l B. Findlay,
B. B. Whiteman,
E. J. Miller,
James Pullan,
Albert Lewis,
Wm. Judkins,
M. G. Williams,
John P. Harrison,
N. Wright,
Ephraim Morgan,
Griffin Taylor,
Phineas Moses,
Sam'l Fosdick,
M. Y. Glasgow,
John G. Rice,
W. Smead,
R. C. Clayton,
J. S. Boerum,
H. Ives,
P. Wilson,
J. W. Blatchley,
William Neff,
J. A. Warder,
H. O. Sheldon,
John Noble,
J. Burnet,
S. S. L'Hommedieu,
A. M. Mitchell
Wm. S. Ridgely,
Wm. J. Van Horne,
Nathan Guilford,
A. Pugh,
Geo. W. Harlan,
J. Frazer,
J. C. Culbertson,
R. F. L'Hommedieu,
T. Crane,
Thos. H. Minor,
Jas. McCandless,
Jos. H. Cromwell,
Wm. Greene,
J. P. Beggs,
Wm. H. Comstock,
A. Irwin,
Thos. H. Johnson,
Anthony Harkness,
Wm. Harkness.
Thos. H. Yeatman,
Clark Williams,
Barton White,
John Gordon,
John Roberts,
W. S. Merrill,
Henry Vallette,
J. Bromwell,
N. Meriweather,
Gosling & Conolly,

Wm. Dennison,
R. E. Neil,
Rowland Ellis,
R. Hodges,
J. T. Brooke,
R. D. Mussey,
Isaac G. Burnet,
James Southgate,
Charles Duffield,
Geo. P. Torrence,
A. McAlpin,
J. W. Piatt,
John Shillito,
Geo. H. Hill,
R. B. Bowler,
S. S. Smith,
Wm. Goodman,
C. G. Springer,
Wm. Manser,
W. S. Groesbeck,
B. Storer,
Jno. T. Shotwell,
J. L. Vattier,
S. C. Parkhurst,
Talbot Jones,
John C. Avery,
R. W. Keys,
Wm. H. Ross,
Edmund Dexter,
D. C. Cassat,
Miles Greenwood,
Davis B. Lawler,
M. Brooks,
D. Griffin,
W. R. Williamson,
H. P. Vancleve,
N. C. McLean,
J. L. Van Doren,
H. McDougal,
Richard Eberle,
R. C. Phillips,
T. B. Mason,
H. J. Adams,
H. Crane,
A. P. Holden,
John W. Garrison,

Thos. J. Matthews,
John L. Talbott,
Jas. Calhoun,
Jesse W. Cook,
V. Worthington,
Charles Woodward,
D. H. Shaffer,
Thos. Carroll,
Julius Brace,
G. G. Bowen,
Sam'l E. Foote,
Thos. Newell,
H. Groesbeck,
Jno. W. King,
Calvin Carpenter,
John Whetstone,
J. D. Thorpe,
A. Miles,
John Westcott,
E. S Brooks,
D. K. Este,
Thos. J. Strait,
Wm. Wood,
T. Kirby,
F. A. Churchill,
J. Jonas,
W. G. Breese,
Geo. Wood.
C. Merrill,
S. B. Garrard,
Geo. H. Bates,
U. P. James,
L. Harding,
J. Duncan,
John Baker,
G. K. Shoenberger,
L. A. Brigham,
R. F. Cooke,
Isaac C. Copelen,
Tyler Davidson,
G. R. Hand,
John H. Swan,
Sam'l M. Hart,
H. Ford,
Jos. S. Bates,
Benj. Sterrett,

V. C. Marshall,
J. H. Groesbeck,
Sam'l Wiggins,
L. H. Shalley,
Jno. H. Jones,
Joseph Herron,
Charles P. James,
James F. Irwin,
Wm. Resor,
A. M. Taylor,
W. H. H. Taylor,
R. F. Levering,
E. Q. S. Waldron,
Charles Fox,
M. B. Wright,
N. Longworth,
James Gorman,
P. Rogers,
John Kilgour,
Geo. W. Neff,
Geo. Graham,
Joseph Gest,
Lewis Whiteman,
E. D. Mansfield,
R. W. Burnet,
S. B. Munson,
Lewis Carneal,
S. P. Chase,
R. W. Lee,
S. Fales,
Peter Gibson,
Isaac Young,
Jos. Smith,
E. Gaither,
Henry Ware,
Harvey Hall,
Joseph Wade,
Horace Cole,
J. F. Conover,
Wm. Wiswell, jr.
S. Holmes,
Tunis Brewer,
Wm. Crossman,
Henry Wood,
Elbert Marsh,
W. Wood,
John Justis,
M. S. Wade,
Charles Fisher,
Ezra Bailey,
D. K. Cady,
A. Curtiss,
A. H. Ewing,
C. Jeffries,
Wm. Carson,
David Griffey,
Sam'l Cloon,
C. G. Wayne,
E. Lawrence,
J. A. James,
B. S. Lawson,
Jonathan Cilley,
Henry Pearce,
D. A. Powell,
Wm. McCammon,
Lyman Beecher,
M. T. Williams,
A. Valentine,
J. A. D. Burrows,
Geo, Carlisle,
L. C. Rives,
John P. Foote,
J. H. Perkins,
Jabez Reynolds,
J. P. Broadwell,
M. Flagg,
Burton Hazen,
J. B. Summons,
Alex. Stewart,
N. G. Pendleton,
Paul Anderson,
C. E. Stowe,
D. H. Allen,
E. S. Williams,
J. M. Edwards,
Dan. Drake,
J. P. Reynolds,
Lewis Hunt,
Jas. S. Glascoe,
R. R. Springer,
Walter Gregory,
Geo. L. Weed,

H. F. Davis,
Hiram Sloop,
B. P. Aydelott,
James Pearce,
Osgood Fifield,
James Foster, jr.
Luther Rose,
J. R. Coram,
John G. Anthony,
Jos. Ray,
J. B. Purcell,
J. A. Ellet,
Wm. Oliver,
Dan Ames,
Martin Van Buren,
S. O. Almy,
S. H. Goodin,
A. G. Burt,
Jno. D. Jones,
R. P. Resor,
J. N. Crawford,
James Hicks,
T. J. Adams,
C. Fletcher,
Jos. Torrence,
W. B. Robbins,
S. Schooley,
A. N. Riddle,
Mrs. H. Reeder,
Isaac Stephens,
Thos. Emery,
J. Imhoff,
D. P. Strader,
Geo. Milne,
G. M. Dickson,
H. O. Noble.
Ed. Kinsey,
Lewis Stagg,
Israel Wilson,
C. T. Bryant,
Dan. Gano,
J. L. Minor,
P. Neff,
H. Carrel,
Dan. Parker,
H. M. Ernst,
Mrs. Jones,
John W. Noble,
B. S. Scudder,
Jno. Mullen,
Chas. Satterly,
J. H. Jones,
Sam'l Morrison,
Wm. Medary,
J. W. Wade,
W. Ernst,
Charles Schultz,
Philip Hinkle,
E. H. Rosa,
Wm. Threlkeld,
Geo. Reeves,
Peter Smith,
M. French,
O. M. Mitchel,
C. Stetson,
Wolcott Richards,
Geo. Selves,
J. K. Green,
E. Stone,
F. Abbott,
F. Andress,
J. McFarland,
S. O. Butler,
Thos. Steele,
R. Hogue,
D. W. Corwin,
W. S. Sampson,
N. Sampson,
J. D. Walbridge,
W. Cameron,
Smith Betts,
N. Baker,
J. K. Ogden,
C. McMicken,
M. Oswald,
A. M. Searles,
W. W. Cooper,
J. H. Beard,
E. M. Gregory,
A. H. Dunlavy,
L. Worthington,
M. Allen,

D. E. A. Strong,
T. S. Goodman,
Allen Wright,
J. E. Day,
J. Whetstone,
W. M. Cameron,
David Bolles,
Thos. Cooper,
Thos. Bakes,
P. Outcalt,
Jno. Bailey,
Jas. Johnston,
W. Johnston,
Jos. Pierce,
J. L. Whetstone,
Jas. Foster, senr.,
J. K. Coolidge,
J. Langstaff,
J. Elstner,
J. P. Reynolds,
W. S. Peebles,
George Hatch,
John Leatherbury,
E. Woodruff,
Wm. Coolidge,
Wm. Stephenson,
D. H. Horne,
H. Albro,
A. Taft,
B. Tappin,
W. Sellew,
L. Broadwell,
J. Williams,
J. Goodloe,
N. T. Horton,
G. M. Ayres,
Wm. Woodnutt,
E. B. Reeder,
Wm. Person,
W. B. Chapman,
E. B. Scott,
H. Morse,
T. B. Harris,
J. W. Riley,
John Kirby,
Wm. Miner,
Rees E. Price,
J. E. Williams,
Almon Baldwin,
J. Baldwin,
Thomas Dunlop,
A. W. Baldwin,
E. B. Harris,
H. Hughes,
Chas. Rand,
Daniel Robertson,
Robert Mitchell,
H. Lyon,
C. Kastner,
A. Gordon,
Wm. Lewis,
R. Crawford,
G. C. Miller,
Lewis Fagin,
Samuel Davis, jun.
Wm. Thoms,
Thomas McGechin,
G. W. Garretson,
G. W. Coffin,
A. Glasgow,
John Bevan,
John Ewing,
H. Walter,
David Loring,
Stephen Wheeler,
R. M. Bartlett,
Jeffrey Seymour,
A. Kauffman,
O. M. Conclin,
W. T. Truman,
J. C. Jeffries,
H. E. Spencer,
J. C. Wright,
J. P. Atwater,
Wm. Price,
James Taylor,
Daniel Corwin,
D. P. Taylor,
D. Davenport,
M. C. Butler,
P. Knowlton,
Larz Anderson,

Joseph Longworth,
S. H. Long,
M. Schnetz,
Boggs & Bateman,
John Bonte,
Joseph Scott,
A. F. Temple,
N. D. C. Moller,
Wm. Burnet,
J. W. Rowth,
A. Ebersole,
A. H. Ernst,
W. J. Schultz,
T. Heaton,
J. Andrews,
H. H. Goodman,
J. Mitchell,
H. Emerson,
C. Bates,
W. B. Dodds,
J. R. Child,
T. S. Butler,
R. Reeder,
T. D. Lincoln,
E. Goodman,
E. T. Coolidge,
David Carroll,
J. Q. Adams,
Joseph Grinnell,
John B. Russell,
S. J. Wade,
J. C. Hall,
John McDougall,
J. D. Lovell,
W. Hoon,
H. Probasco,
J. S. Niles,
J. Finch, jr.,
J. C. Norris,
J. J. Wright,
S. H. Parvin,
M. A. Donaldson,
C. G. Kinsey,
H. Olmstead,
S. O. Thompson,
J. B. Carpenter,
Joseph Roberts,
Mrs. Eliza Wright,
J. Pancoast,
A. Marsh,
L. Einstein,
J. Newhouse,
G. W. Brooks,
Henry Pace,
J. B. Schroeder,
Charles Gueld,
R. Conkling,
D. Riley,
N. P. Iglehart,
James Ferguson,

19-1484